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ICC ANNOUNCES GRANTS FOR RAIL SAFETY/ EDUCATION

The Illinois Commerce Commission today announced that 15 Illinois communities and two non-profit organizations have been awarded grants totaling \$273,684.00 for local railroad safety education and enforcement projects.

Funded by the Federal Railroad Administration, the grants are earmarked for use in Illinois and range between \$5,000 and \$25,000. Senator Richard Durbin, who worked to have the money designated for Illinois, noted that Illinois has more railroad crossings than almost every other state except Texas.

“Each year in Illinois, at least 50 people are killed and another 50 injured in rail grade crossing collision,” Senator Durbin said. “These grants will go a long way toward educating our citizens about the potential hazards at rail crossings, and will allow for the expansion of local enforcement activities.”

ICC Chairman Edward Hurley said the Commission, which administers the Grade Crossing Protection Fund, and supports crossing safety improvements, encourages local community involvement in the education and enforcement of current law.

“If there is a way to reduce death and injury at railroad grade crossings, it will only happen with local involvement,” Hurley said. “The grants, which Senator Durbin has diligently worked for, will help us get out the message that safety counts.”

Grants were awarded to the following communities or not for profit organizations:

- * Arlington Heights; Cook County
- * Dixmoor; Cook County
- * Dolton; Cook County
- * Elburn; Kane County
- * Evergreen Park, Cook County
- * Frankfort, Will County
- * Glenwood, Cook County
- * LaGrange, Cook County
- * Lansing, Cook County
- * Mt. Prospect, Cook County

- * Park Ridge, Cook County
- * Western Springs, DuPage County
- * Galesburg, Knox County
- * Granite City, Madison County
- * Mt. Vernon, Jefferson County
- * DuPage Rail Safety, DuPage County
- * Healthworld, Cook County

The grants will be used for a variety of projects including customized public service announcements to increase public awareness of railroad safety laws, training staff as certified Operation Lifesaver presenters or to investigate grade crossing collisions, law enforcement details at select crossings or installation of new warning signs at crossings.

This is the second round of PEERS grant awards to the state bringing the total paid out for enforcement and education to approximately \$400,000.

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